**2018 SCHOLAR-CHESSPLAYER AWARD QUALIFICATIONS**

**New Deadline – March 31st, 2018**

If you are a ***high school junior or senior*** looking for scholarship money, read on!

If you are a current US Chess member you are eligible to apply for a 2018 National Scholar-Chessplayer award if you:

* Played in ***at least 25 Regular-rated US Chess or FIDE games during calendar year 2017***, games with a Time Control less than Game-30 delay-0 do not count toward the 25 game requirement
* Have shown ***outstanding achievement in academics and chess***
* Completed ***at least one year of chess-related community service*** since you started the 9th Grade
* Can articulate in an essay (of 500 words or less) how your being selected as a 2018 Scholar-Chessplayer enables you to ***further your education, improve your chess, and continue contributing to the chess community*** for the next 5 years of your life

A total of five awards are available at $1,500.00 each for a total of $7,500.00 in scholarship money. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible. These scholarships, awarded annually by the U.S. Chess Trust and US Chess, recognize and encourage outstanding high school students who promote a positive image of chess.

Applications are available online through the Scholastic page at [uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org/images/stories/scholastic_chess_resources/ScholarChessPlayer/2016scholarchessplayerapplication.pdf).

Applications are scored equally in four areas: Academics, Chess Playing, Community Contributions, and the Personal Essay. Contact **Susan Kantor**, Scholastics Associate, at the US Chess Office, **(931) 787-1234 x136** or email skantor@uschess.orgwith any questions.

Your completed application consists of the eight documents listed below. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated by the selection committee.

1. The **cover page of the Application**, which contains basic information about yourself.
2. Your **high school transcripts** showing all courses and grades.
3. Your **SAT or ACT scores** (pre-SAT scores are not acceptable).
4. Evidence that you have played at least **25 US Chess or FIDE rated games** during calendar year 2017.
5. A list and brief description of **your best Chess Accomplishments**.
6. Examples of your **Chess-related Community Service** since 9th Grade or later.
7. A letter of recommendation **from a teacher** in a current or former school you have attended in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
8. A letter of recommendation **from a Chess Coach or Tournament Director**.
9. A letter of support from someone other than a parent, guardian or kin **bearing witness to the nature, duration and impact of your chess-related community service**. We also encourage you to submit newspaper articles or web-based stories as evidence.
10. Your **essay of no more than 500 words** describing how your being recognized as a Scholar-Chessplayer would help you continue contributing to the greater US Chess community over the next 5 years of your life.
11. OPTIONAL: A recent color **photograph of yourself**, either a headshot or full-length.

You can send your application to us in two ways—email or postal carrier. If you use email, we must ***receive your application by Friday, March 31st*, 2018**. If you send your application by one of many available postal carriers, it must be postmarked by midnight on Wednesday March 28, 2018.

Recipients who attend the 2018 National High School Chess Championship in Columbus, OH on April 27th – 29th, 2018, will be recognized for their achievements. Players do not need to attend the 2018 National High School Chess Championship tournament to be eligible for the 2018 Scholar-ChessPlayer Award.

Send your completed application to:

US Chess Federation

Attn: Susan Kantor

P.O. Box 3967 Crossville, TN 38557-3967

OR Email – Attn: Susan Kantor at skantor@uschess.org